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of rice will rise. I may tell the hon. Member that even during the control period, we were supplying 2 oz. in the rural areas. We are continuing the same even now."

SRI G. LATCHANNA :—" Is it not a fact that the present free market price of rice is much higher than the blackmarket price of rice while the previous Government was in office and control of rice was in force? Are the Government aware of reports in the Press in this connexion?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Yes, Sir, to a certain extent, the free market price of rice is a bit high but it is much lower than the blackmarket price during the period of control. But there is a tendency among the people to purchase rice in the free market rather than in the Fair Price Shops."

DR. T. S. SOUNDARAM RAMACHANDRAN :—" Considering the fixation of price of rice prior to decontrol at a scandalously low level, will the Government consider the desirability of raising it so that the present increase noticed in the free market may be rectified."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I do not think our fixation of price was so scandalously low. Now that we have decontrolled rice, we have absolutely no power for the fixation of price at any specified level."

Opening of a Medical College at Madanapalle.

* 276 Q.—SRI D. SEETHARAMIAH : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether there is a proposal before the Government to open a Government Medical College at Madanapalle?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The answer is in the negative."

SRI D. SEETHARAMIAH :—" In view of the fact that the whole of the people of Rayalaseema have no medical college of their own and in view of the fact that their educational needs have not been taken proper care of by the previous Government, will the present Government at least come forward with a scheme for opening a medical college at Madanapalle."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" At Madanapalle, the hospital has a capacity of only 28 beds. For the starting of a medical college with 50 students we require a hospital with a bed strength of 500. Moreover we require highly qualified staff, i.e., persons with post-graduate qualifications and teaching experience. In view of the lack of these facilities, it is not possible to open a medical college at Madanapalle at the present moment."

SRI T. N. VENKATASUBBA REDDI :—" Was there any proposal before the Government to increase the bed strength of the

hospital at Madanapalle at any time before? In view of the healthy climatic conditions prevailing at Madanapalle, is it not desirable to start a medical college at Madanapalle? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The bed-strength of different hospitals is increased from time to time according to the needs of the locality."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" In view of the fact that there is a big hospital at Kozhikode, will the Government consider the question of starting a medical college for Kerala at Kozhikode? "

Correspondence with the Union Government re Preventive Detention Act.

* 277 Q.—SRI K. KRISHNA RAO : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Union Government have addressed the State Government to offer their views about the intended extension of the period of operation of the Preventive Detention Act; and

(*b*) whether the Government have addressed the Union Government about their opinion on the working of the Act in this State, and if so, the gist of their letter to the Union Government?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" There are two questions referring to the same subject. The one is put by Sri K. Krishna Rao and the other by Sri K. C. Gopalan Unni. I am answering both at the same time.

" (*a*) & (*b*) Proposals for legislation are generally referred by the Government of India to all State Governments and this procedure was followed in this case also. Disclosure of confidential exchanges of opinion can do no good to anyone, but the fact remains that we have no one under preventive detention in this State to-day, except one blackmarketeer, who also, I think, was ordered to be released last week as sufficiently cured. I could easily disclose all the correspondence asked for in the question but for the fact that it would be laying down a wrong precedent in respect of confidential exchanges of tentative opinions and doubts between one Government and another."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" May I know whether this Government is aware of the fact that the Hon. Minister for Home Affairs, while introducing the Bill for extending the life of the Preventive Detention Act in the Parliament at Delhi, said that the State Governments had been consulted in the matter and that they had all agreed that the Act should be extended for some time to come? May I know why this Government had agreed before consulting this House which is having its sitting now? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, the answer I have already given is confirmed by what the hon. Member